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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/825,563	04/15/2004	Udo Arend	09334.0012-00	9128
22852 7590 08/08/2007 FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER VU, THANH T	
			ART UNIT 2174	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/08/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/825,563	Applicant(s) AREND ET AL.	
	Examiner Thanh T. Vu	Art Unit 2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All. b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 05/25/2007.

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. In the Amendment, claims 1-24 were amended. This action is made Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Messinger et al. ("Messinger", U.S. Pat. No. 7,000,178) and Makinen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,928,625).

Per claim 1, Messinger teaches a user interface for guiding a user through a task requiring user interaction in a plurality of ordered steps, the user interface including a window on a computer screen comprising:

a first pane displaying an active roadmap of two or more of the ordered steps and for indicating a selected one of the two or more ordered steps (fig. 13A; task list 43; col. 5, lines 55-67; col. 10, lines 8-12));

a second pane for providing a user interface pattern, the user interface pattern corresponding to the selected one of the two or more ordered steps (fig. 13A; sequential steps 400); and

a third pane for displaying one or more activities related to activities displayed in the user interface pattern (fig. 13A; display area 50).

Messinger does not teach wherein at least one step not immediately following the selected step in the ordered steps is selectable by a user. However, Makinen teaches wherein at least one step not immediately following the selected step in the ordered steps is selectable by a user (fig. 9; *processing step 4 following processing step 2*; col. 10, lines 27-lines 33). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the teaching of Makinen in the invention of Messinger in order to allow a user to visually distinguish the objects corresponding to the other previously completed steps to indicate that they are to be completed again.

Per claim 2, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the user interface pattern is a form (fig. 13A; form 50; col. 10, lines 13-22 and lines 50-67).

Per claim 3, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 2, wherein the second pane is also for receiving user input into the form (fig. 13A; form 50; col. 10, lines 13-22 and lines 50-67).

Per claim 4, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the first pane is also for receiving a user election of one of the two or more sequential steps (col. 6, lines 20-24; col. 10, lines 7-12; *selection of a task provides provide two or more sequential steps*).

Per claim 5, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the third pane is also for receiving a user selection of one of the one or more related actions (fig. 13A; col. 10, lines 13-22 and lines 50-67).

Per claim 6, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 5, wherein the user interface initiates the associated secondary, related task upon receiving the user selection of one of the one or more related actions (col. 10, lines 23-33; *graphical overlay 401c*).

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Per claim 7, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the one or more related actions displayed is based on the indicated sequential step from the first pane (col. 6, lines 20-24; col. 10, lines 7-12; *selection of a task provides provide two or more sequential steps*).

Per claim 8, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, further comprising a fourth pane displaying explanatory text (col. 7, lines 43-52).

Per claim 9, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 8, wherein the explanatory text displayed is based on the indicated sequential step from the first pane (col. 7, lines 43-52; col. 10, lines 23-33).

Per claim 10, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, further comprising a fifth pane displaying core functions (fig. 13C; user privilege 440; col. 12, lines 28-41; *the task list 43 are only displayed based on the level of user's privileges*).

Per claim 11, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 10, wherein the core function displayed is based on the indicated sequential step from the first pane (col. 10, lines 1-12).

Per claim 12, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 10, wherein one of the core functions is a command to proceed to the next sequential step (col. 10, lines 44-67).

Per claim 13, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 10, wherein, upon receipt of the next sequential step command from the user in the fifth pane, the first pane indicates the next sequential step (col. 10, lines 44-67).

Claims 14-24 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 1-11 respectively.

Response to Arguments

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Applicant's arguments with respect to the amendment have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and every other Fri 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

T. Vu

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